GOLD KEY

SOLAR

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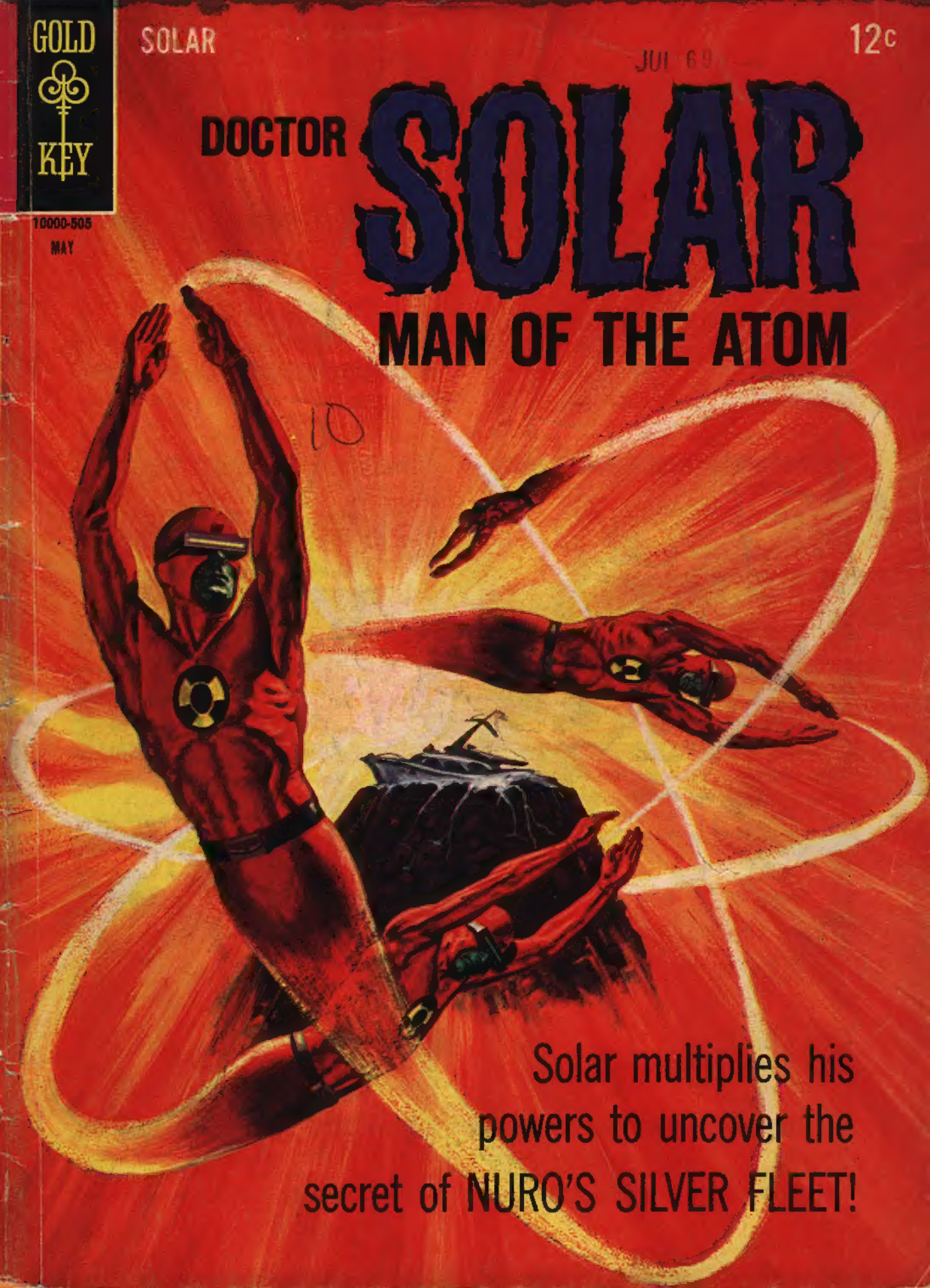
MAY

DOCTOR SOLAR
MAN OF THE ATOM



Solar multiplies his powers to uncover the secret of NURO'S SILVER FLEET!

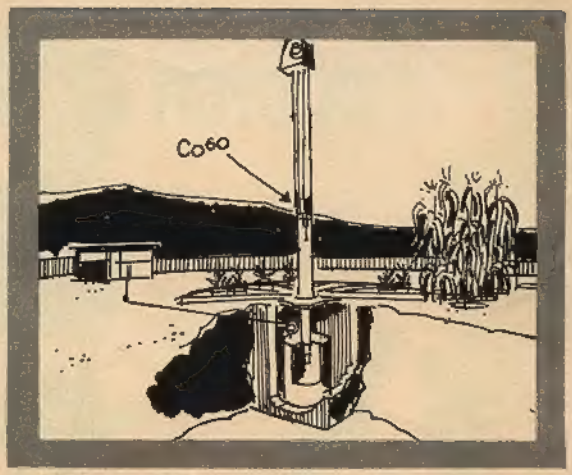
KEYS OF KNOWLEDGE

ATOMIC ENERGY

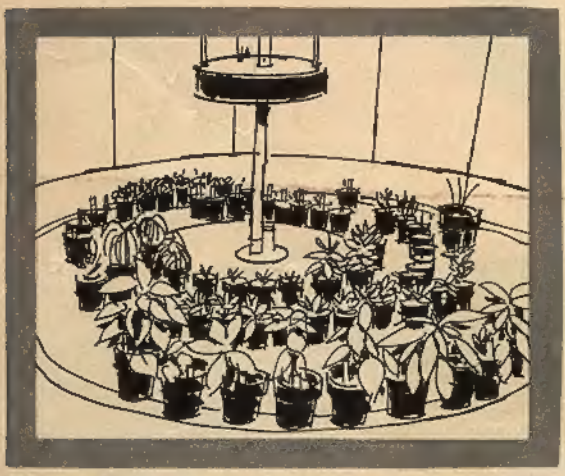
NUMBER 12

ATOMIC FARM

This is one of a series of information features in Gold Key Comics. Collect the whole series for useful knowledge.



This diagram of the radiation farm installation at Brookhaven Laboratory, N. Y., shows the underground controls and shield.



Plants in the greenhouse are arranged in rings around radioactive cobalt 60 to study the effect of radiation on growth.

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Normally, this variety of carnation produces only a white flower. After irradiation, 60 per cent of the flowers are red.

Radiation can extend the storage life of foods. The unexposed potato sprouted. The other, exposed, is firm after 16 months.

In the biology greenhouse, a scientist injects a radioactive phosphorus solution to study how roots absorb nutrients.

THE MYSTERY of the VANISHING SILVER

QUICKLY BECOMING MORE VALUABLE THAN GOLD, THE DEMAND FOR *SILVER* BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE WORLD AS WELL AS BY INDUSTRY IS INCREASING EVERY DAY! AT THE SAME TIME, THE SUPPLY IS DWINDLING AT AN EVEN FASTER RATE! SUSPECTING POSSIBLE FOUL PLAY, THE PRESIDENT ORDERS A COMPLETE INVESTIGATION! IN THE INTEREST OF SPEED, *THE MAN OF THE ATOM* IS ENLISTED TO AID THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT TO HELP THEM UNRAVEL...

THE SEARCH BEGINS AT THE UNITED STATES MINT IN WASHINGTON, WHERE VAST QUANTITIES OF SILVER ARE USED IN MANUFACTURE OF COINS! AS THE TREASURY AGENTS WATCH IN WONDER, *THE MAN OF THE ATOM* RUNS THROUGH THE ENTIRE COINING PROCESS IN THE WINK OF AN EYE!

THEN, AS SOLAR MOMENTARILY ASSUMES HUMAN FORM...

NOT A SIGN OF LEAKAGE IN THE BASIC MACHINERY, GENTLEMEN! — NOW, LET'S DO A STANDARD RUN-THROUGH WITH A *SILVER INGOT!*

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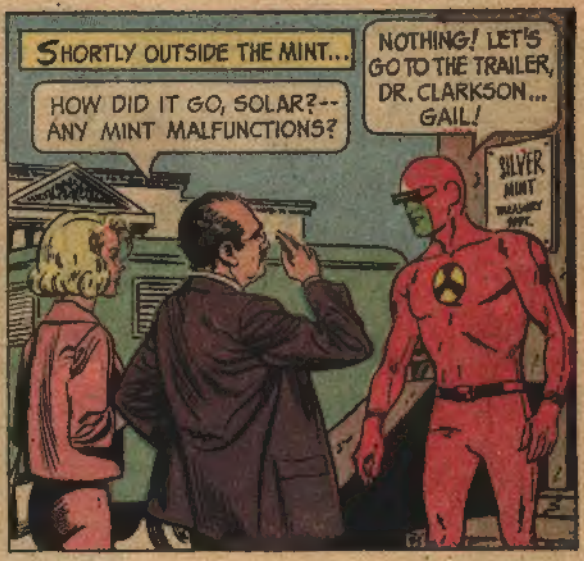
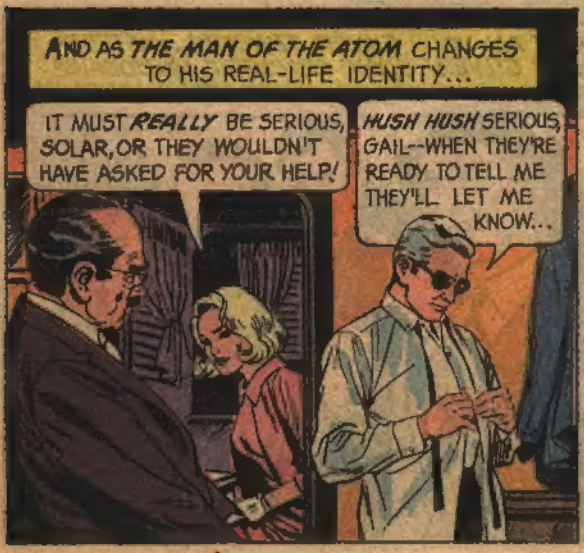
CHANGE OF ADDRESS should reach us four weeks in advance of the next issue date. Give both your old and new address enclosing if possible your old address label.

SILVER INGOTS ARE PREPARED FOR PROCESSING..
AND...
SILVER IS THE BEST CONDUCTOR OF HEAT AND ELECTRICITY! I CAN EASILY ADJUST MY ATOMIC CHEMISTRY TO FUSE WITH IT!— READY!
THE MAN OF THE ATOM GLOWS SOFTLY WITH NUCLEAR POWER COUNTERACTING THE SMELTING FURNACE HEAT! IN WRAITH-LIKE FORM, HE AND THE MELTING INGOTS BECOME AS ONE...
IN MICROSCOPIC DETAIL, SOLAR OBSERVES THE TRANSITION FROM SILVER INGOT TO SILVER DOLLAR!--SMELTING...COOLING...STAMPING...

FINALLY...
SORRY, GENTLEMEN--I COULDN'T FIND ONE FLAW—NO SIGN OF WASTE OR LEAKAGE—IN THE ENTIRE PROCESS!

THANK YOU--YOU'VE SAVED US WEEKS OF WORK! YOU UNDERSTAND, WE CAN'T TELL YOU DETAILS--BUT THIS SILVER PROBLEM IS A WALLOPING BIG HEADACHE!
SURE THING—GLAD TO HELP OUT!


SHORTLY OUTSIDE THE MINT...
HOW DID IT GO, SOLAR?--ANY MINT MALFUNCTIONS?
NOTHING! LET'S GO TO THE TRAILER, DR. CLARKSON... GAIL!
SILVER MINT


AND AS THE MAN OF THE ATOM CHANGES TO HIS REAL-LIFE IDENTITY...
IT MUST REALLY BE SERIOUS, SOLAR, OR THEY WOULDN'T HAVE ASKED FOR YOUR HELP!
HUSH HUSH SERIOUS, GAIL--WHEN THEY'RE READY TO TELL ME THEY'LL LET ME KNOW...

BUT RIGHT NOW, LET'S TAKE IN THE WASHINGTON SIGHTS—IT ISN'T OFTEN WE GET A BREAK FROM THE "VALLEY"!
BE MY ESCORT, EMINENT DR. SOLAR--THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT WILL PROBABLY HAVE THEIR PROBLEM ALL TIED UP IN PINK RIBBONS BY TOMORROW!

BUT GAIL'S CAREFREE PROPHECY IS FAR FROM RIGHT--ON THE NEXT DAY THE SILVER INTRIGUE GATHERS MOMENTUM AT LAS VEGAS...
TH-THE SILVER DOLLAR DISPLAY -- YOU'RE SELLING IT??
WHY NOT?--SOME MYSTERY MILLIONAIRE GAVE ME A BIG DOLLAR PROFIT FOR IT! I CAN ALWAYS GET MORE FROM THE MINT!
CASINO
100,000 SILVER DOLLARS
LARGEST DISPLAY IN THE WORLD
Courtesy of
CALIPH CASINO

A DOZEN BANKS ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE SUDDENLY "RAIDED" FOR THEIR SILVER COINAGE...
B-BUT THERE'S A SHORTAGE OF SILVER COIN-- WE CAN'T EXCHANGE $1 MILLION WORTH!
WE MUST-- INTERESTS WHO OWN THE BANK AUTHORIZED IT!
BANK
BANK
SILVER

NEW YORK'S JEWELRY EXCHANGE IS HIT WITH A SILVERY WINDFALL...
GET ALL YOUR SILVER JEWELRY... NOTHING BUT SILVER! SOME CRACKPOT MILLIONAIRE IS BUYING IT UP LIKE THERE'S NO TOMORROW!
JEWEL

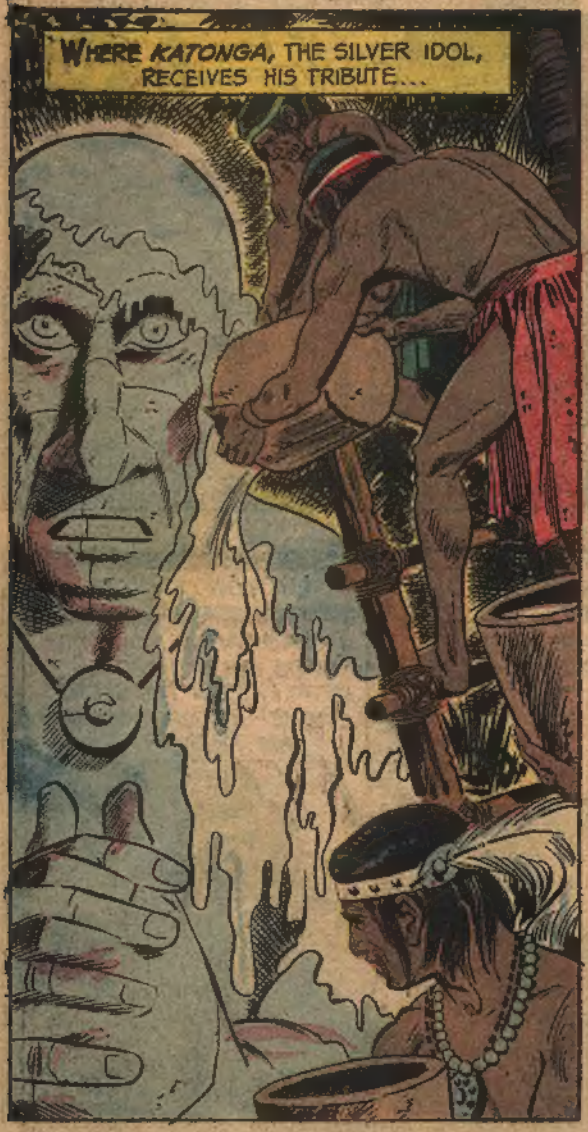
AND THE STAID PROPRIETOR OF THE NATION'S TOP ANTIQUE SILVER SUPPLY HOUSE TAKES TEMPORARY LEAVE OF HIS SENSES, AS...
EVERYTHING! HA, HA! THEY BOUGHT IT ALL!-$1,400,000 IN SILVER ANTIQUES!
I'VE MADE A TEN-YEAR PROFIT IN ONE DAY! WHOOPDE-LAA!
STEADY... STEADY, MR. LAMONT—YOU MUST CONTROL YOURSELF!
SOLD
SOLD
SOLD
SOLD
BUT LATER, THERE IS NO LAUGHING AT THE SECRET HEADQUARTERS OF MANKIND'S MOST EVIL GENIUS ....NURO...
NURO, THE SUPPLIES OF SILVER ARE ARRIVING IN EXCELLENT FASHION-BUT, ER, THE EXPENSE HAS BEEN GREAT!
INDEED, UZBEK, AND THE REWARDS WILL BE FAR GREATER! BUT YOU ARE CORRECT--IT IS TIME TO TRIGGER THE SECOND PHASE...
BEGIN ARIZONA PROJECT 482-AT ONCE!
YES, SIR!

SOON AFTER, IN THE HEART OF ARIZONA...
WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT! A COUPLE OF SKY-HAPPY FLY BOYS ARE BUZZING THE MINE!
YEAH-H! THEY MUST BE BORED!
ARIZONA SILVER MINE CORP.
BUT NURO'S PILOTS ARE FAR FROM BORED WITH THEIR MISSION...
HEY-Y!—THEY'RE DROPPIN' SOMETHING..?
BOMBS!
PANIC SWEEPS OVER THE MINE AS BOMBS STRIKE... BUT THEY DO NOT EXPLODE...
TH-THE RUSSKY'S MUST BE ATTACKIN'—OR CASTRO... AFTER OUR SILVER!
INSTEAD, AN OMINOUS GAS SWEEPS THROUGH THE AREA...
AND MOMENTS LATER...
TRUCK NO. 1 CLEAN OUT THE PROCESSED SILVER FROM SMELTER...TRUCKS NO. 2 AND NO. 3 LOAD REFINED ORE... HURRY!

JUST 24 HOURS LATER, A STRANGE UNDERGROUND SMELTER HUMS TO NURO'S POWER-MAD COMMANDS...
FIRE SMELTER FOR NEXT SHIPMENT...
PREPARE MOLDS...
HURRY—WE ARE BEHIND SCHEDULE!
A TORRENT OF MOLTEN SILVER FLOWS IN A GREAT, GLISTENING STREAM...
MEANWHILE DEEP IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC, ISLAND NATIVES ALSO OBSERVE A FLOW OF SILVER...
AGAIN THE FIRE GIANT BREATHES SMOKE AND FLAME!
AND AGAIN THE MOUNTAIN BLEEDS HER WONDROUS METAL! FETCH THE STONE CASKS—KATONGA AWAITS HIS TRIBUTE!

AWE-STRICKEN, THE NATIVES SALVAGE THE FIRE MOUNTAIN'S "BLOOD"...

SILENTLY, THEY HEAD INLAND...

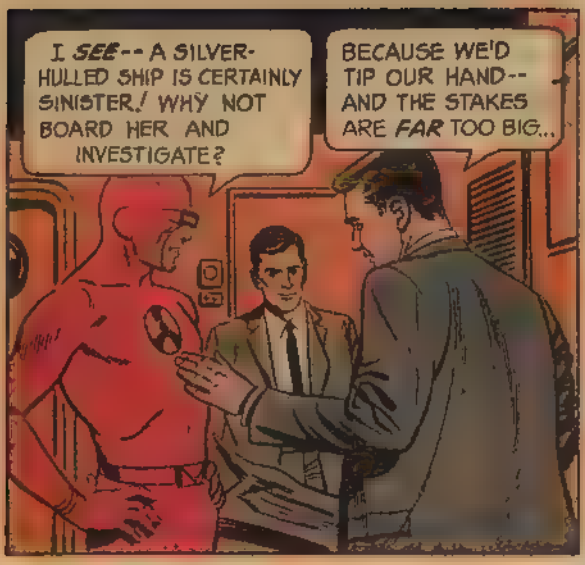

WHERE KATONGA, THE SILVER IDOL, RECEIVES HIS TRIBUTE...

AND LATER, AT A SECRET HARBOR ON THE PACIFIC COAST...
SEPARATE FLEET CRUISE TO YOUR SPECIFIED MARINAS!

SOON AFTER, SIX LUXURY YACHTS DOCK AT SIX DIFFERENT LOCATIONS ALONG THE COAST...
NEVADA
CALIFORNIA
Santa Barbara
Santa Monica
Los Angeles
Long Beach
San Diego
MEXICO
Pacific Ocean
N
W
E
S

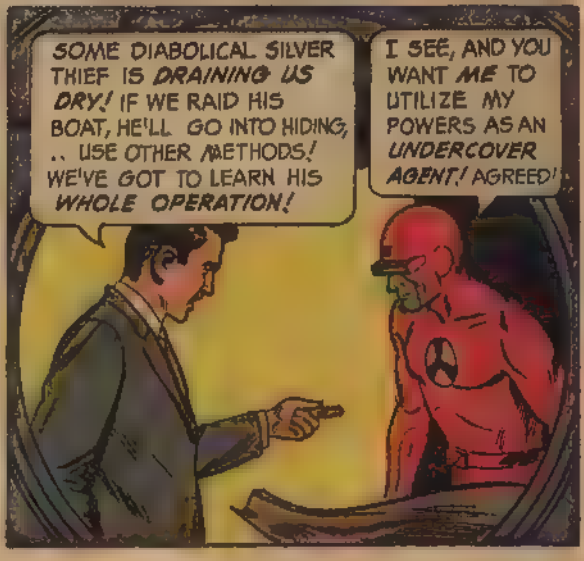
AT THE SANTA BARBARA MARINA, FINAL PHASES OF A MASTER PLAN ARE COMPLETED...
WHAT A WONDERFUL BOAT!—WE MUST BUY IT!
PACIFIC YACHT SALES, INC.
DISPLAY MARINA
ALL IS IN READINESS ..
PLANS ARE COMPLETE! CLEARANCE PAPERS ARE SIGNED WITH MARITIME COMMISSION... NO SUSPICION!
DEPART FOR LOCATION TWO ZERO ZERO TWO AT ONCE!
BUT BEFORE THE HARBOR CAN BE CLEARED...
YOU BLUNDERING FOOL!
H-HE CUT RIGHT ACROSS OUR BOW, CAPTAIN!
FULL SPEED SOUTH TO THE COVE! WE'VE GOT TO REPAIR OUR BOW BEFORE AUTHORITIES INSPECT THE DAMAGE!
AND AT ATOM VALLEY, JUST 24 HOURS LATER
THE TREASURY PEOPLE WANT THE MAN OF THE ATOM AGAIN, SOLAR?
URGENTLY! THIS WIRE DR. CLARKSON RECEIVED REQUESTS I RENDEZVOUS WITH A COAST GUARD CUTTER OFF SANTA BARBARA AT NOON!

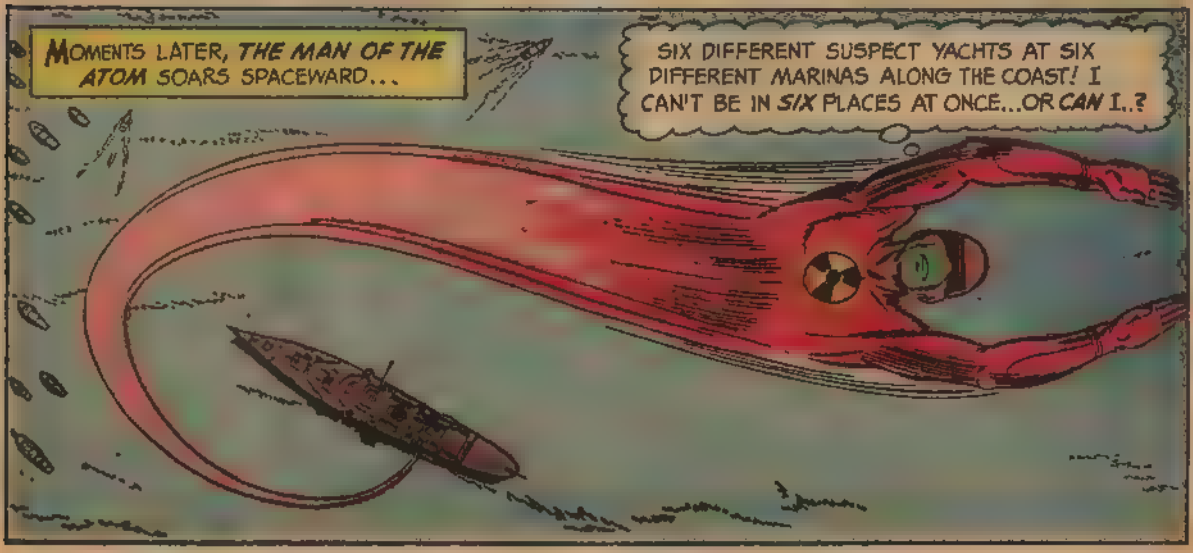
AT PRECISELY 12 O'CLOCK AN ARC OF NUCLEAR LIGHT ARCHES ACROSS THE SKIES TO SANTA BARBARA HARBOR...
THEN, AS SOLAR RE-FORMS...
THE POT BEGINNING TO COOK, GENTLEMEN?
SHE'S BOILING OVER -- LET'S GO BELOW!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS?
IT LOOKS LIKE A SPLINTERED PIECE OF WOODEN HULL WITH SLIVERS OF METAL IN IT...YES... SILVER SLIVERS!
EXACTLY! AND THAT PIECE OF HULL CAME FROM A FISHING VESSEL THAT COLLIDED WITH A DISPLAY MODEL BELONGING TO PACIFIC YACHT SALES, INC. THEY SELL AT THESE SIX MARINAS ALONG THE COAST...
THAT IS THE YACHT THERE -- IT VANISHED AND THEN RETURNED TO THE MARINA FULLY REPAIRED! THE PANICKY FISHING BOAT CAPTAIN CALLED US WHEN IT WAS MISSING!


I SEE -- A SILVER-HULLED SHIP IS CERTAINLY SINISTER! WHY NOT BOARD HER AND INVESTIGATE?
BECAUSE WE'D TIP OUR HAND -- AND THE STAKES ARE FAR TOO BIG...

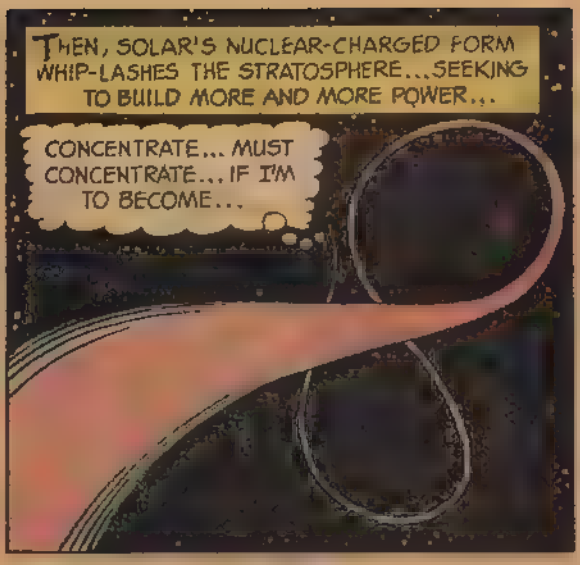
WE'RE GOING TO OPEN THE SECRET DOOR -- WE'RE CONFRONTED WITH A NATIONAL SILVER SHORTAGE! OUR WHOLE MONETARY SYSTEM IS TOPPLING BECAUSE SOMEBODY'S HOARDING MILLIONS IN SILVER!

IT'S A CRISIS -- GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY ARE USING THREE TIMES THE AMOUNT OF SILVER THEY USED TO -- 144 MILLION OUNCES A YEAR! WE CAN'T MINE ENOUGH TO MAKE UP THE DIFFERENCE...


SOME DIABOLICAL SILVER THIEF IS DRAINING US DRY! IF WE RAID HIS BOAT, HE'LL GO INTO HIDING, .. USE OTHER METHODS! WE'VE GOT TO LEARN HIS WHOLE OPERATION!
I SEE, AND YOU WANT ME TO UTILIZE MY POWERS AS AN UNDERCOVER AGENT! AGREED!

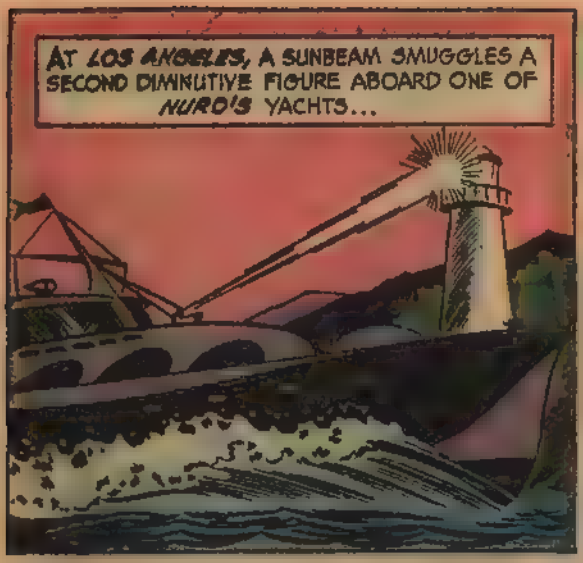

MOMENTS LATER, THE MAN OF THE ATOM SOARS SPACEWARD...
SIX DIFFERENT SUSPECT YACHTS AT SIX DIFFERENT MARINAS ALONG THE COAST! I CAN'T BE IN SIX PLACES AT ONCE...OR CAN I..?

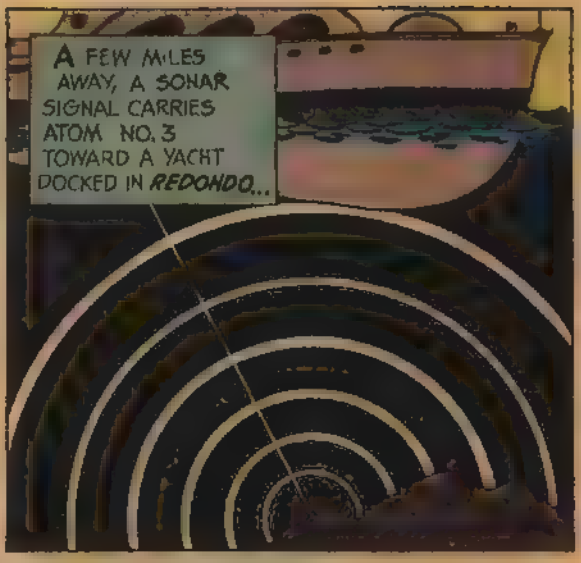
TWENTY... FORTY.. SIXTY THOUSAND FEET SOLAR STREAKS AT THE SPEED OF SOUND..
I'LL NEED TO UTILIZE ALL MY ATOMIC POWERS...BUT IT CAN BE DONE..!

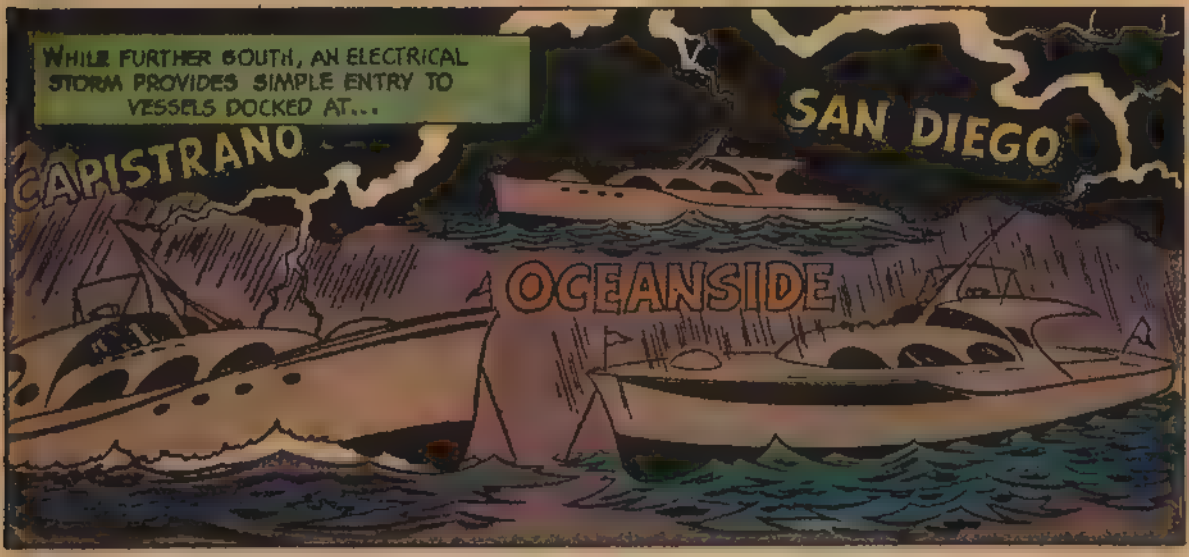

THEN, SOLAR'S NUCLEAR-CHARGED FORM WHIP-LASHES THE STRATOSPHERE...SEEKING TO BUILD MORE AND MORE POWER...
CONCENTRATE... MUST CONCENTRATE... IF I'M TO BECOME...

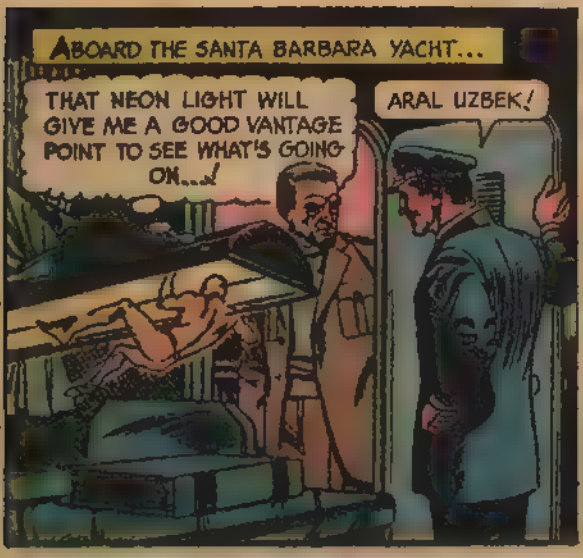
FINALLY, A MINIATURE ATOMIC EXPLOSION ERUPTS IN SPACE .. LIKE SOME FANTASTIC FIREWORKS DISPLAY SOLAR SPLITS ASUNDER...

THE AWESOME ATOMIC DISPLAY SUBSIDES... AND SIX TINY NUCLEAR-CHARGED FIGURES SOAR DOWN FROM SPACE TOWARD THE CALIFORNIA COAST...
AT SANTA BARBARA, A TINY, ONE-FOOT TALL MAN OF THE ATOM CONVERTS HIS ATOMIC STRUCTURE TO FOLLOW A SHIP'S RADIO BEAM, AND..


AT LOS ANGELES, A SUNBEAM SMUGGLES A SECOND DIMINUTIVE FIGURE ABOARD ONE OF NURO'S YACHTS...

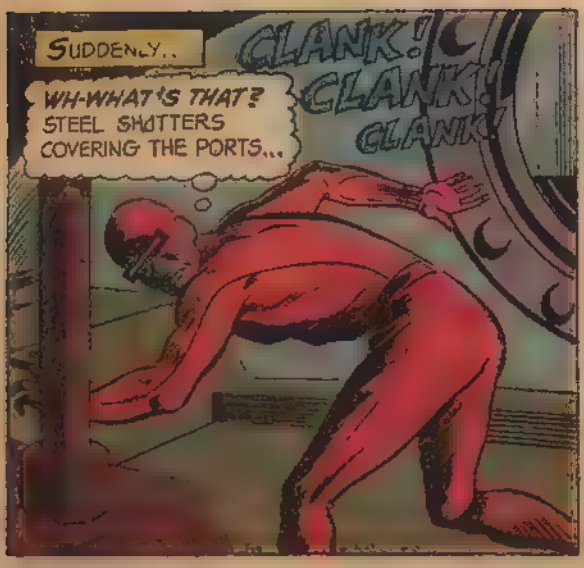

A FEW MILES AWAY, A SONAR SIGNAL CARRIES ATOM NO. 3 TOWARD A YACHT DOCKED IN REDONDO...

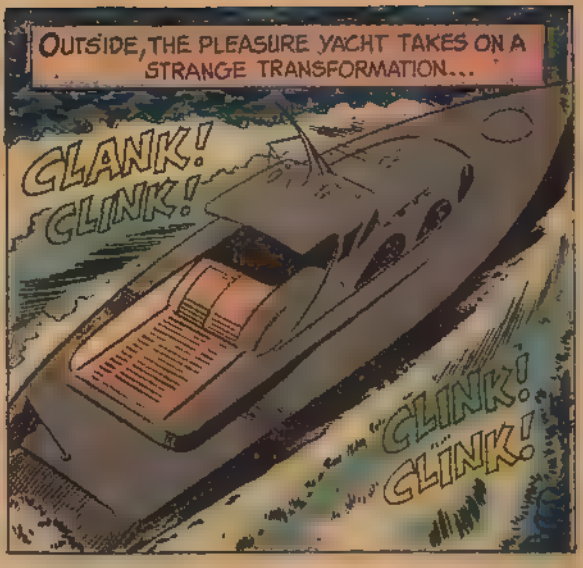

WHILE FURTHER SOUTH, AN ELECTRICAL STORM PROVIDES SIMPLE ENTRY TO VESSELS DOCKED AT...
CAPISTRANO
SAN DIEGO
OCEANSIDE

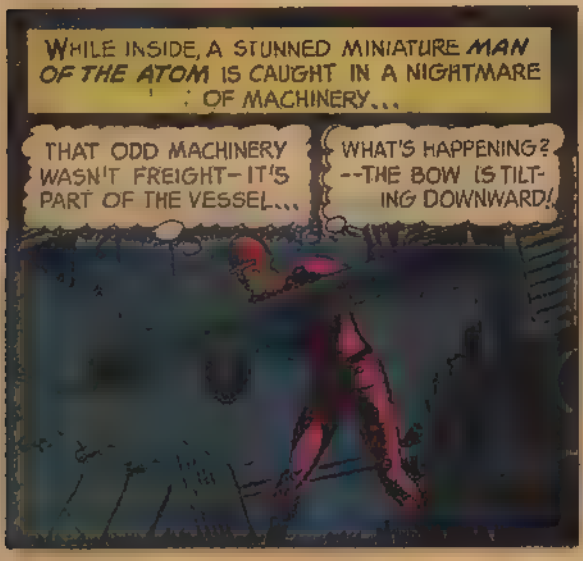

ABOARD THE SANTA BARBARA YACHT...
THAT NEON LIGHT WILL GIVE ME A GOOD VANTAGE POINT TO SEE WHAT'S GOING ON...!
ARAL UZBEK!

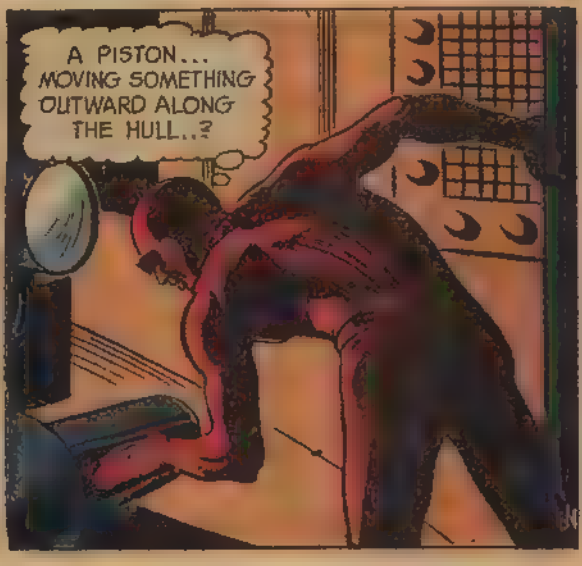
AND AS THE TINY MAN OF THE ATOM FUSES HIS ATOMIC CHEMISTRY WITH THE NEON LIGHT...
IT IS TIME -- ALERT THE FIVE SHIPS ALONG THE COAST!
YES, SIR!

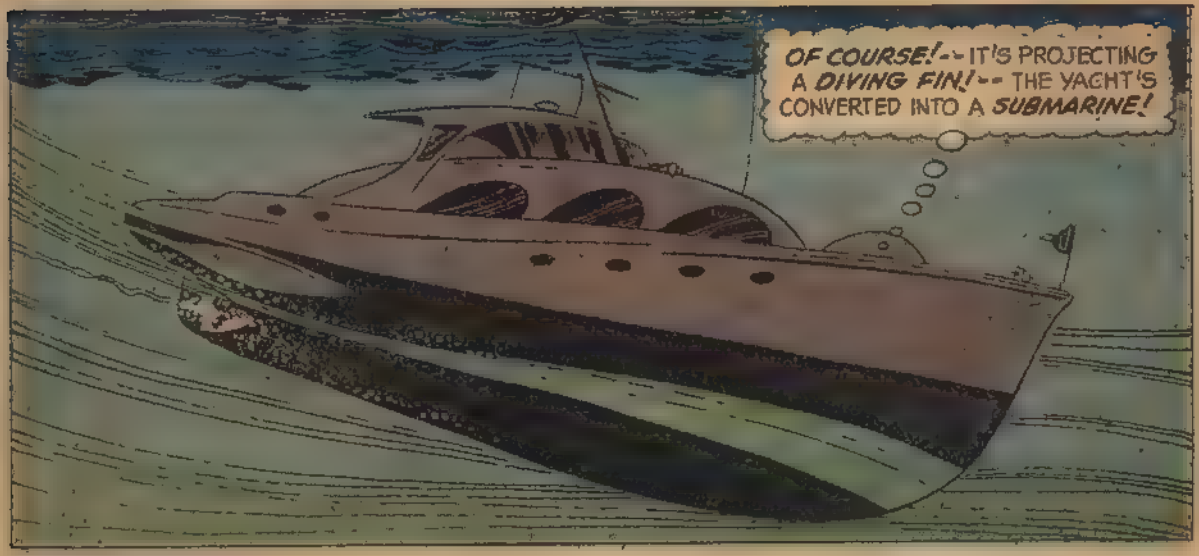
FLAGSHIP TO CHILDREN...THE SILVER SWAN WILL SWIM TONIGHT...THE SILVER SWAN WILL SWIM TONIGHT!
SOON AFTER THE SANTA BARBARA DEMONSTRATOR OF PACIFIC YACHT SALES, INC. WEIGHS ANCHOR...
AND ON BOARD, A TINY MAN OF THE ATOM RESUMES HIS HUMAN FORM...
THE FISHING VESSEL'S HULL PICKED UP SILVER SPLINTERS WHEN IT COLLIDED WITH THIS BOAT... THE MYSTERY'S IN THE HULL...
SHORTLY...
SILVER! TH-THE HULL'S MADE OF SILVER... THAT'S HOW THEY'VE BEEN SMUGGLING IT OUT! GOT TO ACT FAST... RADIO THE TREASURY PEOPLE...
BUT AS HE CONCENTRATES, ATTEMPTING TO CONVERT HIS NUCLEAR POWER INTO ENERGY FOR RADIO TRANSMISSION.
I-I CAN'T DO IT... M MY TINY SIZE HAS ROBBED ME OF FULL POWER OF CONCENTRATION...I'M ONLY ONE-SIXTH AS POWERFUL!


SUDDENLY..
CLANK!
CLANK!
CLANK!
WH-WHAT'S THAT? STEEL SHUTTERS COVERING THE PORTS...


OUTSIDE, THE PLEASURE YACHT TAKES ON A STRANGE TRANSFORMATION...
CLANK!
CLINK!
CLINK!
CLINK!


WHILE INSIDE, A STUNNED MINIATURE *MAN OF THE ATOM* IS CAUGHT IN A NIGHTMARE OF MACHINERY...
THAT ODD MACHINERY WASN'T FREIGHT— IT'S PART OF THE VESSEL...
WHAT'S HAPPENING? --THE BOW IS TILTING DOWNWARD!


A PISTON... MOVING SOMETHING OUTWARD ALONG THE HULL..?


OF COURSE!-- IT'S PROJECTING A *DIVING FIN!*-- THE YACHT'S CONVERTED INTO A *SUBMARINE!*

SOLAR'S

SCIENCE FORUM

In one issue of DOCTOR SOLAR, Professor Harbinger told about teleportation. I have a theory about it. If someone could convert matter into energy and transmit it through a beam of light, then aim that light to another planet, could something be teleported to that planet? How could it be reassembled on the other planet?

Russell Cline/Waldorf, Md.

Something like that might be possible some day, but not until after some of the problems like converting matter into energy and back again are solved. It sounds fantastic, but so did rockets a very short time ago!

I have been reading your comic magazine ever since it first came out. I like the suit Solar wears now, but why don't you make a little change? — Make Solar's belt yellow and his boots yellow. When Nuro had The Man Of The Atom locked in an armored car with Gail, why didn't he use his atomic muscles to break out?

George Melius/Albany, New York

He could easily have escaped from the armored car as you suggest, but not without harming Gail, which he'd never do!

I can't say your magazine is best, because I'm not a good judge. But I will say it is one of the best. I have been reading your letter column, reading letters that present a problem. The question is, should you have alien foes. I say no. That is one of the comic's finer points! Everything you print is scientifically possible. Also, some people seem to think D.S. shouldn't have a costume. They do not realize the reason for this. It is to protect his innocent friends from harm. Another question is, should Solar have a partner. I do not care one way or the other, but other people might. Encourage your readers to write. Where would we be if people did not voice their opinions?

Robert McCausland/Virginia Beach, Va.

Where would we be, indeed? You tell your friends and we'll tell ours: write Solar a letter!

If I had to pick a complaint about your company and the magazines you publish, it would have to be the perennial one: You don't publish them often enough! Your magazines are the best on the market. You use higher quality paper, you take more care with your covers, your artists are superior and the men who write them are great! Yet, I like your competitors' products better. When a new issue of MAGNUS or DOCTOR SOLAR hits the stands, I buy it immediately and read it with relish. The entertainment derived is far greater than with "Brand X"! However, after a few weeks the excitement has worn off and I no longer feel the same way about it. This is the same for other comics, but around that time another issue is on the stands, and my enthusiasm does not have a chance to wane. With DOCTOR SOLAR, I must wait a month or so before my enthusiasm is renewed. This is a picayune criticism, I realize. But I'm asking, begging, pleading with you to publish MAGNUS and SOLAR more often! Perhaps we fans don't see enough of your super hero material, but what we do see is well worth the wait.

Bob Butts/South Bend, Ind.

You talked us into it! SOLAR is now being published six times a year. So is THE PHANTOM. Keep up your support of these and other GOLD KEY super heroes, and you'll get more of them!

Although The Sun Giant, part I, was not too good, I enjoyed the second part of the story. I think Professor Harbinger looks a bit gruesome for a scientist, but then some scientists do look gruesome! I would like to know why the story just stopped without an ending. If Solar wears his suit to protect other people from his radioactivity, then why doesn't he cover his face?

Marty Morse/Lake Worth, Fla.

The story of The Sun Giant didn't just stop. At the end, Solar was still a giant, but how he got back to normal was another story — which we hope you read in issue #11! Solar leaves part of his face uncovered because it's more convenient for him that way. The amount of radiation given off from the lower part of his face is very little.

Let us see you get out of this one: In your January issue of DOCTOR SOLAR as "The Sun Giant," you showed Solar about ten times larger than a normal human being. This is scientifically impossible. You better tell your writers to read P.S.S.C. (Physical Science Study Committee) which is a study of physics. You show Solar ten times larger than a human being, which means that his columns and braces are proportional to his cross-sectional area, to the square of his linear dimensions. Thus the area of the body would be ten squared, or one hundred times the normal weight of a human being. Because his weight is proportional to his volume, it would be ten cubed or one thousand times that of a human being. So, this scientific freak would have a strength-to-weight ratio ten times smaller than ours. Therefore, to support his own weight, he would have as much trouble as we would in carrying ten grown men on our backs. Galileo wrote very clearly on this point: "I disapprove the possibility of any normal-looking giants; for if his height be increased inordinately he will fall and be crushed under his own weight." With this substantial evidence, we dare you to prove us and Galileo wrong!!

Tom Smith/Saskatoon, Sask., Canada

—Strange you should mention that! Doctor Clarkson and Professor Harbinger had an interesting discussion along the same lines only last night! They are as mystified as you and Galileo. But then, a lot of things about Solar are at odds with natural law — Like the time he walked into an atomic pile and came back transmuted into The Man Of The Atom.

I love DOCTOR SOLAR, and I'm asking if there is any chance of seeing him on TV? Could you have Solar with his powers make Doctor Bently alive, though still radioactive? Then you could have *men* of the atom, and they are a team!

Timmy McCarthy/Bay City, Mich.

Solar's powers are amazing, but not that amazing!

I have just finished reading your January issue. I think it was very good! Why does The Man Of The Atom turn green? The Colonel who called Solar a freak — was he supposed to be nutty, or was he just scared?

Sandra Dickerson/Midwest City, Okla.

The Colonel was a little bit of both — nutty and scared!

I think DOCTOR SOLAR is great! You should drop out Professor Harbinger so Solar could have larger stories. In the future, I would like to see these things: 1. Solar have at least fifty pages. 2. A Solar Annual. 3. New Villains.

Steve McCarthy/Belleville, Ill.

While Solar was a giant, wouldn't he give off more radiation than usual? When he turns into an atomic inferno, doesn't his suit get burned?

Richard Smith/Cold Lake, Alta., Canada

Solar's suit, which was made of a special material he developed himself, acts as an insulator against the radiation he normally gives off! This allows him to stay near people for longer periods than he once could. When the sun's radiation turned him into a giant, his suit still held back the radiation as it would if he were normal. When he converts the matter in his body into energy, he also converts the matter in his costume. In converting back from an energy form, his clothing is converted back along with him. The reason it didn't burn in the fire is that it was the fire!

Congratulations on your tenth issue of DOCTOR SOLAR. I think it was one of the finest comic magazines I have ever read. It was the first DOCTOR SOLAR comic I ever read. From now on, I think I'll stick to DOCTOR SOLAR! In the article about the mystery signals from space, why is the man on earth always considered the lowest and less progressed than other beings on other planets which we don't even know about?

Darrell Whetstine/Kings Mountain, N. C.

We're giving creatures from other planets the benefit of the doubt!

In DOCTOR SOLAR #10, how did Professor Harbinger know that earth people would believe in those monsters from Pluto?

David Smith/Dayton, Ohio

Professor Harbinger thinks that enough people will believe anything to make it very possible for misunderstandings to cloud relations with any visitors from other planets. Do you believe he's right?

I first started reading DOCTOR SOLAR today. It was the January issue, called The Sun Giant. Tell me something: How come Solar is green when he is The Man Of The Atom?

Michael Hansel/Milwaukee, Wisc.

The green color is the result of a concentration of radioactivity in Solar's skin. It is always present, but never more apparent than when he is The Man Of The Atom and is using his full powers.

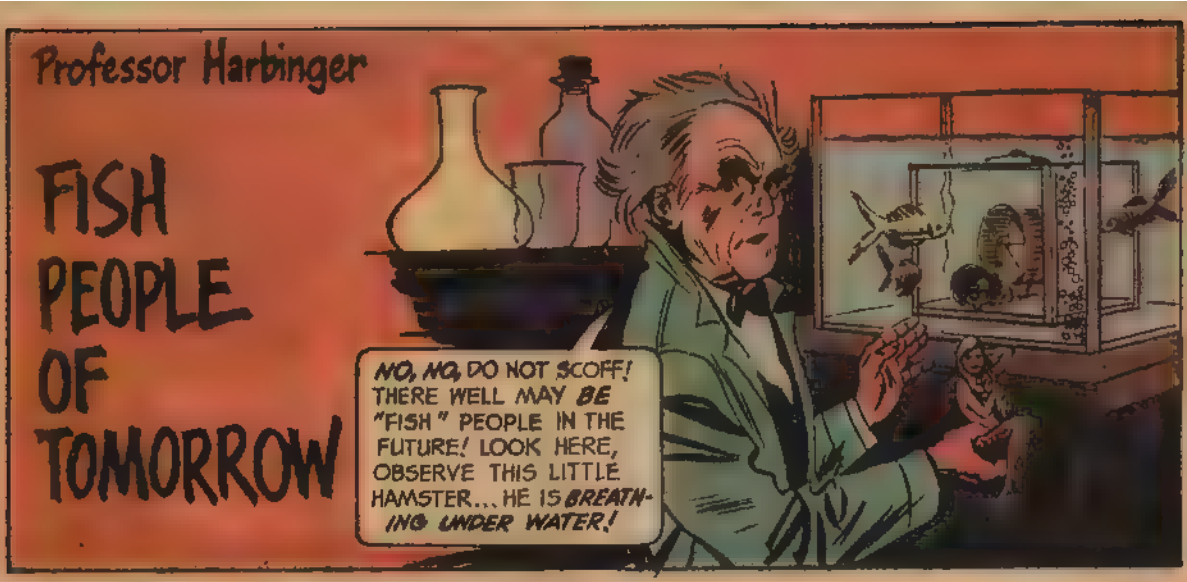
WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?

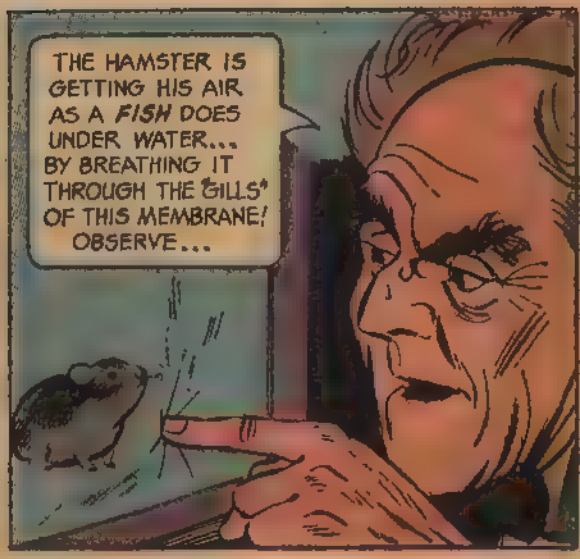
It isn't possible to answer each and every letter, but we welcome your ideas and suggestions! Address your mail to:

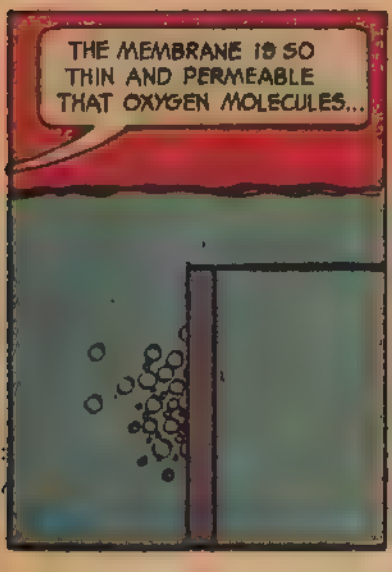
DOCTOR SOLAR
K.K. Publications, Inc.
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601

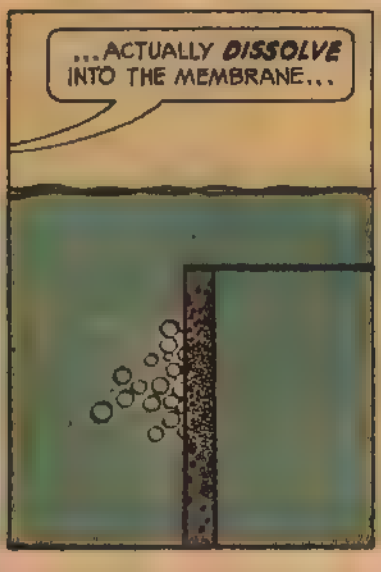
Professor Harbinger

FISH PEOPLE OF TOMORROW


NO, NO, DO NOT SCOFF! THERE WELL MAY BE "FISH" PEOPLE IN THE FUTURE! LOOK HERE, OBSERVE THIS LITTLE HAMSTER... HE IS BREATHING UNDER WATER!







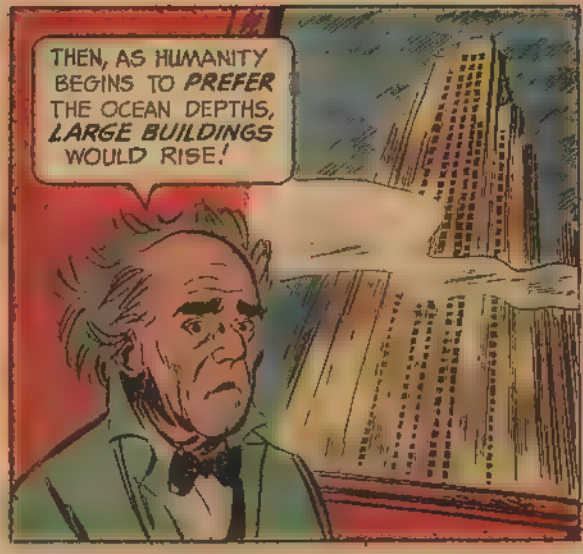
THUS, OUR HAMSTER CAN SURVIVE ON THE WATER'S OXYGEN...
WHAT A REMARKABLE SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGH, EH? WHY, THIS SUPER-THIN MEMBRANE WILL HAVE WONDROUS USES IN THE FUTURE...
"UNDERWATER MILITARY CRAFT THAT MUST NOT SURFACE COULD HAVE EXERCISE SPACE UNDER A MEMBRANE CANOPY...
"CARBON DIOXIDE AND WATER VAPOR COULD BE CARRIED EASILY OUT OF A SPACESHIP COMPARTMENT... MAKING ITS OCCUPANTS COMFORTABLE..."

BUT WHEN A *PORTABLE* MEMBRANE GILL FOR HUMANS IS DEVELOPED IT WILL BE THE GREATEST BOON...

"MANKIND CAN *LITERALLY* RETURN TO THE SEA, FROM WHENCE HE CAME...

"AS TIME GOES ON, *CAMPSITES* WILL SPRING UP ON THE OCEAN FLOOR...

"WITH BOTH AIR AND DRINKING WATER OBTAINED FROM THE SEA ITSELF, THE CAMPS MIGHT WELL TURN INTO *VILLAGES*..."


THEN, AS HUMANITY BEGINS TO *PREFER* THE OCEAN DEPTHS, *LARGE BUILDINGS* WOULD RISE!

"THERE WOULD BE A GREAT EXODUS FROM OUR SEABOARD CITIES...
"AS YEARS PASS, THE INLAND PEOPLE WOULD BECOME JEALOUS OF THE SHORE-LINE FOLK WHO HAD EASY ACCESS TO THE OCEAN..."
GO HOME TO THE FARMLAND! --THERE IS NO MORE ROOM HERE!
"ANOTHER GREAT CIVIL WAR WOULD BE WAGED BETWEEN THE LAND HUMANS AND THE SEA HUMANS..."
MAN MIGHT EVEN BEGIN TO GROW REAL GILLS AS CENTURIES PASSED.. EH? W-WHAT'S THAT?
HI, PROFESSOR HARBINGER-- IS IT OKAY TO FLY MY FISH KITE ON THE CAMPUS?
OH!... HEH, HEH--OF COURSE, TOMMY! JUST.:. ER, DON'T GO NEAR THE WATER!

DOCTOR SOLAR

The MYSTERY of the VANISHING SILVER

PART II

AS THE SIX TINY **SOLARS** HEAD SOUTH CONCEALED ABOARD THE YACHT-SUBS, **NURO'S** HENCHMAN, **ARAL UZBEK,** MAKES AN EMERGENCY FLIGHT TO A REMOTE SOUTH PACIFIC ISLAND...

YOU **SEE,** MR. UZBEK—**RAIDERS** HAVE DISCOVERED THE LEAKING RIVULET OF SILVER THE NATIVE IDOL IS MADE OF!

THEY ARE NOT **FORTUNE HUNTERS,** FOOL--THEY ARE A **SCIENTIFIC TEAM**... PROBABLY ANTHROPOLOGISTS STUDYING THE NATIVE TRIBE!

SHALL I... **ELIMINATE** THEM, SIR?

YOU DONKEY-BRAINED OAF! THAT WOULD TURN HALF THE WORLD AGAINST US!

NURO MUST BE CONTACTED AT ONCE!

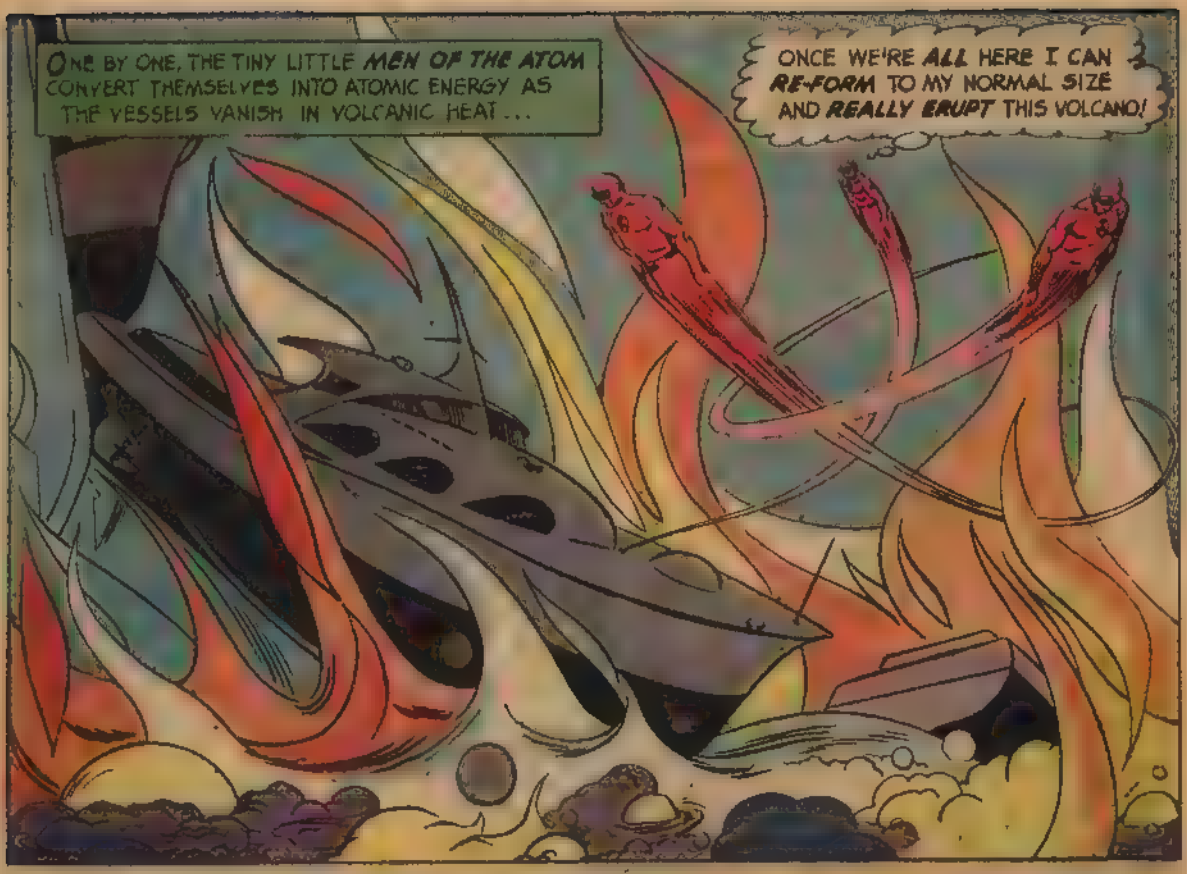
SHORTLY...

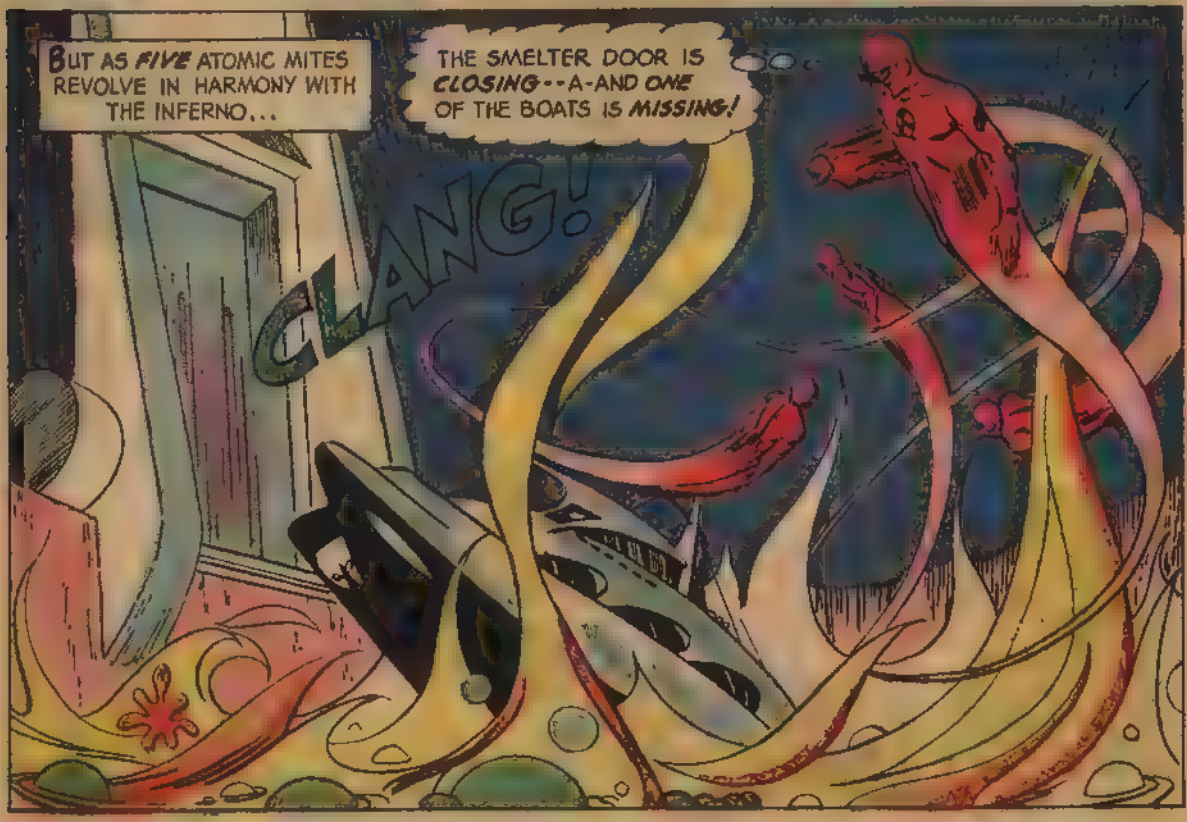
...AND UNWITTINGLY THEY STUMBLED UPON TRACES OF OUR SILVER!

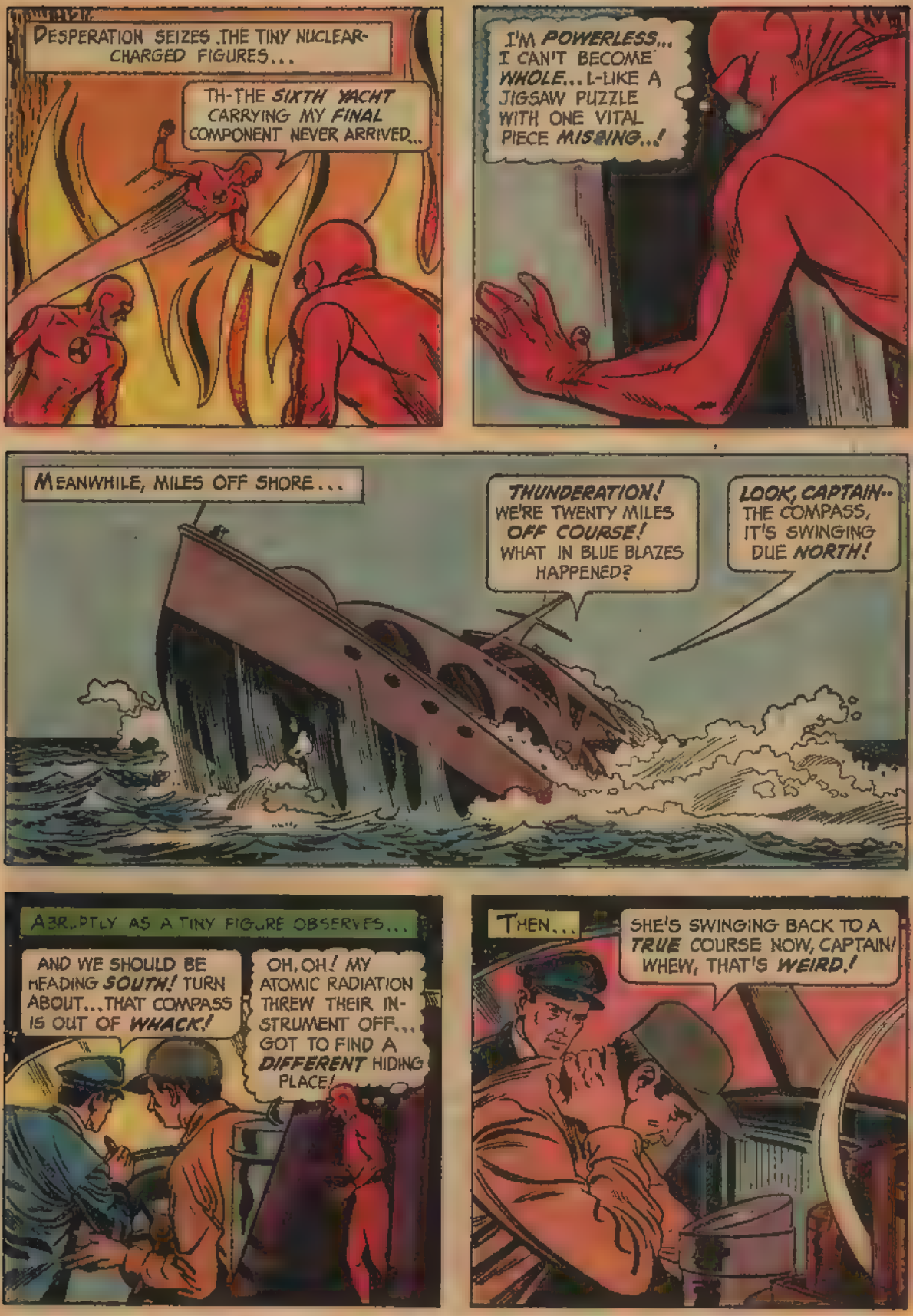
MY AGENTS IN BOSTON HAVE ALREADY **REPORTED** THAT INFORMATION, UZBEK...

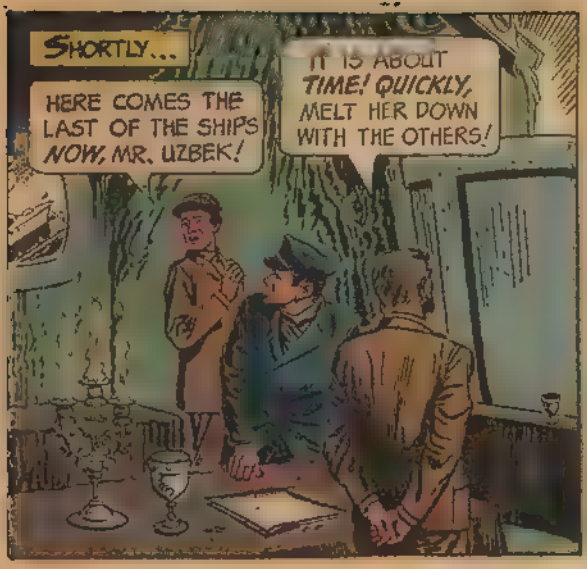
AND THOSE SCIENTISTS HAVE REPORTED MY ISLAND MAY BE AN EXCELLENT PLACE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO REPLENISH ITS SILVER SUPPLY!
COMPLETE SMELTING OPERATIONS WITH THE SIX SHIPS AND CLOSE SHOP!
SOON AFTER, THE YACHT FROM SANTA BARBARA SURFACES NEAR THE VOLCANIC ISLAND, AND...
THIS IS IT!--THE END OF THE LINE! THE OTHER FIVE MUST BE SURFACING IN THEIR SUB-YACHTS TOO..!
ABRUPTLY, A VAST CONVEYOR BELT SNATCHES THE BOATS FROM THE SEA AND MOVES THEM TOWARD THE MOUNTAIN...

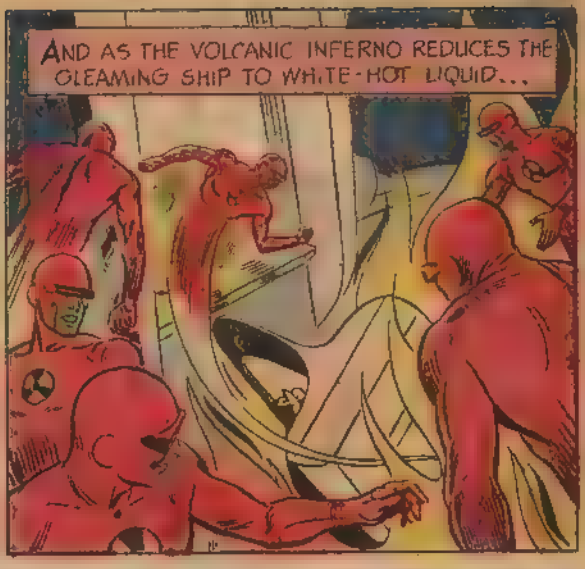
INSIDE THE VOLCANO'S MAMMOTH MAW AN INCREDIBLE SIGHT GREETS THE TINY SOLAR...
--!-INCREDIBLE! A SILVER-PLATED CAVERN WITHIN THE MOUNTAIN... AND THAT TREMENDOUS DOOR... IT MUST OPEN INTO A SMELTER!
THEN, AS THE VAST, WHITE-HOT DOOR IS SWUNG OPEN...
OF COURSE!--THEY SIMPLY MELT DOWN THE ENTIRE VESSEL TO RECOVER THE SILVER... THEY MUST BE MADE OF SILVER FROM STEM TO STERN!

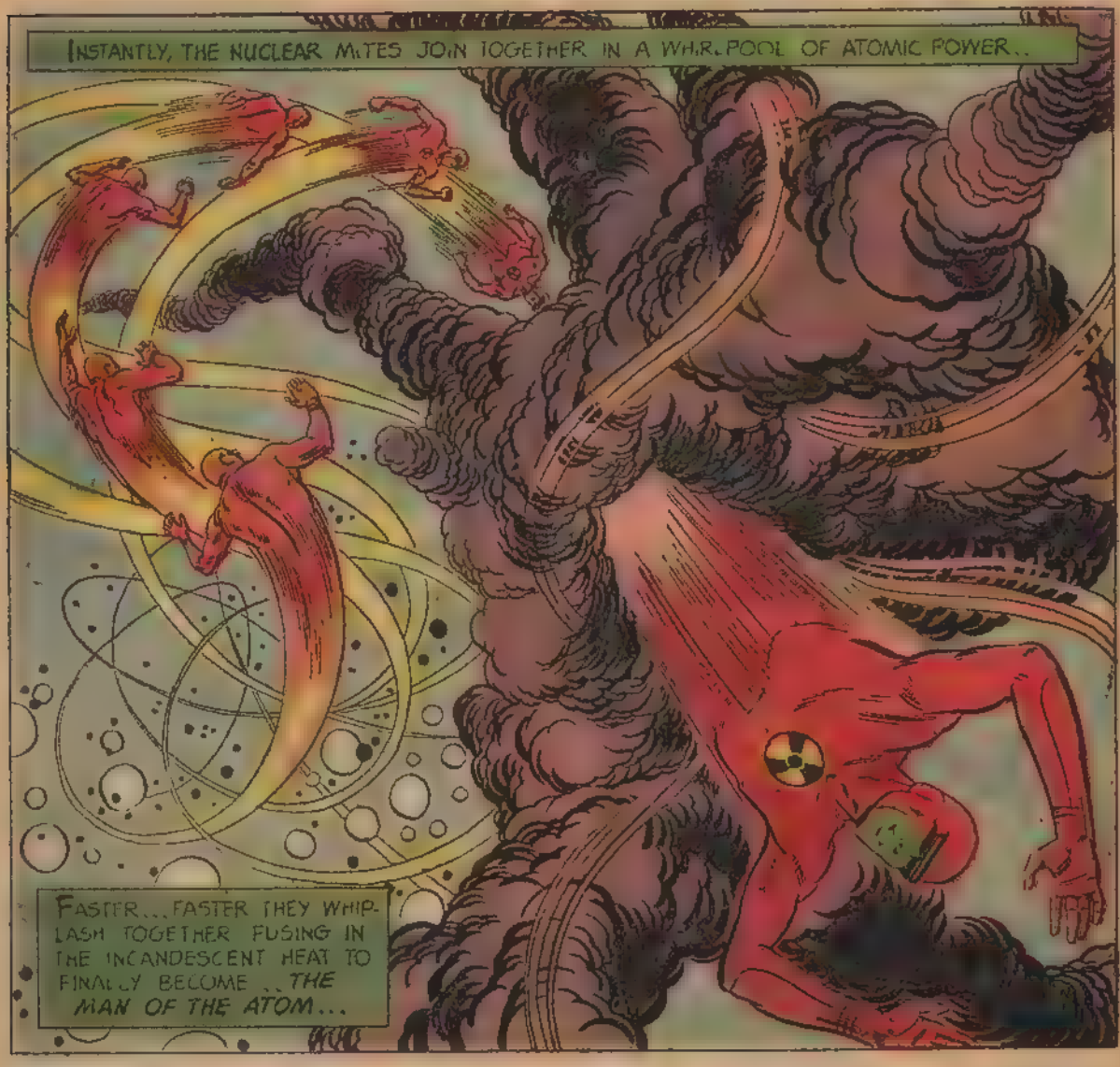

ONE BY ONE, THE TINY LITTLE MEN OF THE ATOM CONVERT THEMSELVES INTO ATOMIC ENERGY AS THE VESSELS VANISH IN VOLCANIC HEAT...
ONCE WE'RE ALL HERE I CAN RE-FORM TO MY NORMAL SIZE AND REALLY ERUPT THIS VOLCANO!


BUT AS FIVE ATOMIC MITES REVOLVE IN HARMONY WITH THE INFERNO...
THE SMELTER DOOR IS CLOSING--A-AND ONE OF THE BOATS IS MISSING!
CLANG!


DESPERATION SEIZES THE TINY NUCLEAR-CHARGED FIGURES...
TH-THE SIXTH YACHT CARRYING MY FINAL COMPONENT NEVER ARRIVED...
I'M POWERLESS... I CAN'T BECOME WHOLE... I-LIKE A JIGSAW PUZZLE WITH ONE VITAL PIECE MISSING..!
MEANWHILE, MILES OFF SHORE...
THUNDERATION! WE'RE TWENTY MILES OFF COURSE! WHAT IN BLUE BLAZES HAPPENED?
LOOK, CAPTAIN-- THE COMPASS, IT'S SWINGING DUE NORTH!
ABRUPTLY AS A TINY FIGURE OBSERVES...
AND WE SHOULD BE HEADING SOUTH! TURN ABOUT...THAT COMPASS IS OUT OF WHACK!
OH, OH! MY ATOMIC RADIATION THREW THEIR INSTRUMENT OFF... GOT TO FIND A DIFFERENT HIDING PLACE!
THEN...
SHE'S SWINGING BACK TO A TRUE COURSE NOW, CAPTAIN! WHEW, THAT'S WEIRD!

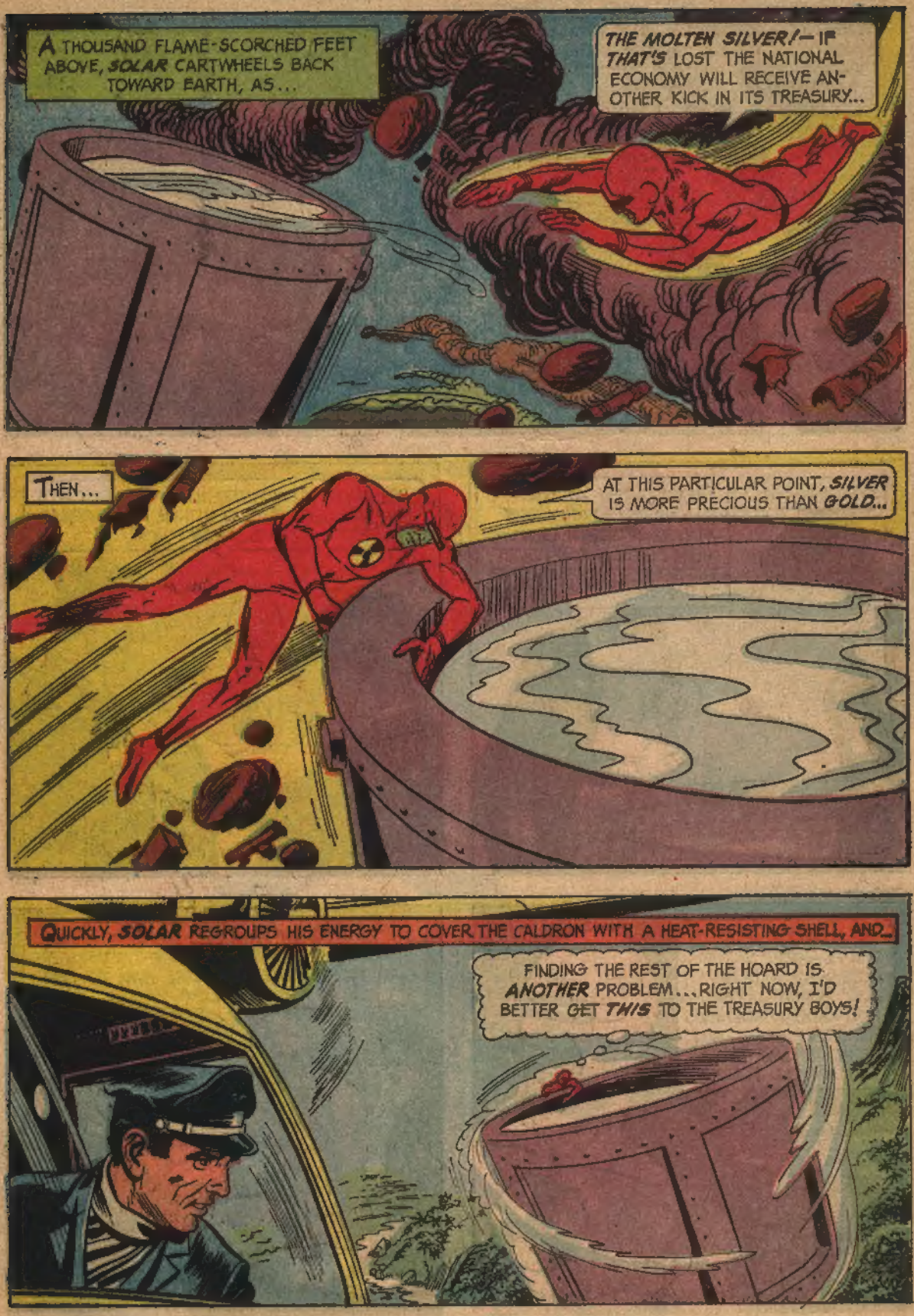

SHORTLY...
HERE COMES THE LAST OF THE SHIPS NOW, MR. UZBEK!
IT IS ABOUT TIME! QUICKLY, MELT HER DOWN WITH THE OTHERS!


AND AS THE VOLCANIC INFERNO REDUCES THE GLEAMING SHIP TO WHITE-HOT LIQUID...


INSTANTLY, THE NUCLEAR MITES JOIN TOGETHER IN A WHIRLPOOL OF ATOMIC POWER..
FASTER...FASTER THEY WHIP-LASH TOGETHER FUSING IN THE INCANDESCENT HEAT TO FINALLY BECOME ...THE MAN OF THE ATOM...

AND AS NORC'S EMISSARY CHECKS HIS SILVER SMELTER...
THE FINAL VESSEL SHOULD BE ABOUT SMELTED DOWN BY NOW..! YARRRKS!
QUICKLY, HE CONTACTS THE EARTH'S HIGH LORD OF TREACHERY...
THE MAN OF THE ATOM-- HE IS INSIDE OUR SMELTER! THE PRESSURE GAUGE HAS BLOWN... THE HEAT IS SOARING!
EVACUATE! EVACUATE! HE IS SUPER-HEATING THE SMELTER!
OUT! GET EVERY-BODY OUT! HURRY!
AS THE ISLAND IS CLEARED, PRESSURE BUILDS WITHIN THE MOUNTAIN... THE "DEAD" VOLCANO CRATER GLOWS WHITE-HOT...
THE...FIRE MOUNTAIN LIVES AGAIN! THE EARTH TREMBLES..!
S-SHE'S ABOUT READY TO BLOW, MR. UZBEK!

ABRUPTLY, A THUNDERCLAP OF ATOMIC MIGHT IS UNLEASHED! AS THE VERY ISLAND TREMBLES UNDER A CATACLYSMIC ERUPTION, MOLTEN ORE STREAKS SKYWARD... AND THE MAN OF THE ATOM IS FREE...


A THOUSAND FLAME-SCORCHED FEET ABOVE, SOLAR CARTWHEELS BACK TOWARD EARTH, AS...
THE MOLTEN SILVER!—IF THAT'S LOST THE NATIONAL ECONOMY WILL RECEIVE ANOTHER KICK IN ITS TREASURY...
THEN...
AT THIS PARTICULAR POINT, SILVER IS MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD...
QUICKLY, SOLAR REGROUPS HIS ENERGY TO COVER THE CALDRON WITH A HEAT-RESISTING SHELL, AND...
FINDING THE REST OF THE HOARD IS ANOTHER PROBLEM...RIGHT NOW, I'D BETTER GET THIS TO THE TREASURY BOYS!

SHORTLY, AT THE WASHINGTON MINT...
THE TREASURY AGENTS ARE AWAITING MY REPORT... I GUESS THEY'LL REASON A CALDRON OF SILVER IS A GOOD ONE!

SOON AFTER...
TREMENDOUS! YOU'VE RECOVERED NEARLY FIVE MILLIONS' WORTH OF SILVER HERE! BUT...WHAT ABOUT THE SOURCE? WHERE IS THE REST? WHO'S BEHIND IT ALL?

WE HAVEN'T CAPTURED HIM YET!—BUT HE'S FAR TOO CLEVER TO CONTINUE HIS "OPERATION SILVER SWAN" NOW!

HIS SUPPLY DEPOT OF THE HOARDED SILVER COULD BE ALMOST ANY PLACE ON EARTH!. HE'S PATIENT, INGENIOUS AND RUTHLESS... BUT THERE IS ONE THING I CAN TELL YOU...

YOU'LL HAVE MY FULL COOPERATION UNTIL, SOMEHOW, I PUT TOGETHER THE WHISPERS OF HIS IDENTITY AND REVEAL HIM TO THE WORLD!

KEYS OF KNOWLEDGE

PEOPLE of the PACIFIC ISLANDS

NUMBER 8

THE OKINAWANS

This is one of a series of information features in Gold Key Comics. Collect the whole series for useful knowledge.

The people of Okinawa live mostly in Japanese style, without chairs or bedsteads or divans . . . The clean floor serves instead.

Baby rides all day on an Okinawan mother's back; and the rice planting or the housework goes on. These youngsters seldom cry.

Island women share the heavier outdoor work too. Sweet potatoes are a favorite food . . . One potato, with tea, does for a lunch.

Geisha girls, highly educated entertainers, still charm both natives and foreigners in the Japanese style, with songs and wit.

To Okinawans, learning is sacred! School attendance is a high privilege, and the American sponsored University is full.

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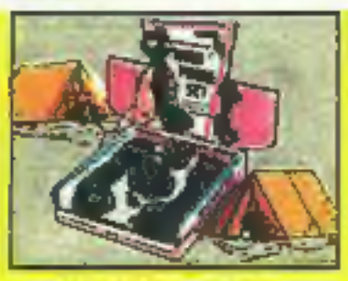
Basketball & Goal



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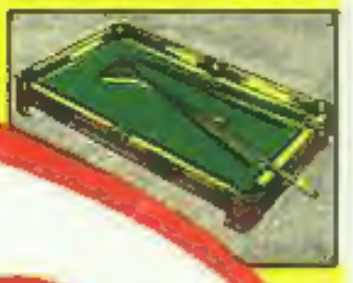

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